



Lesson 3 December 14th, 2024

The Family of Faith

Study Scripture – Luke 2:67-80

Background Scripture – Luke 2:57-80

JUNIOR

Key Verse:

“And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest: for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways; To give knowledge of salvation unto his people by the remission of their sins.”

Luke 1:76-77

INTRODUCTION

A family is the basic structure in the community, the society, and the nation. Psalm 128 tells us that.

God wants families to study together, worship together, and follow the ways of God and His teachings. When families do that they will as Psalm 128 and other Psalms say, they will be blessed and will prosper.



Our Lesson looks at a family, Zechariah, Elizabeth, and their relative the Virgin Mary. The angel Gabriel had visited Mary and told her she would be the mother of the long-promised Messiah. God had promised Adam and Eve a Saviour and Redeemer that would come and cleanse sin from those believing in God. We read that promise in Genesis 3:15. All peoples on the earth, and especially the people of Israel when their nation was formed thousands of years after the promise, under the leadership of Moses, longed for the Messiah to come. Before the Messiah the Lord Jesus Christ was born there were no prophets bringing the Word of God to the nation for over 400 years. Finally Gabriel appeared with the good News. Mary believed the angel. But Zechariah, even though he was a priest and offered incense and prayers to God in the Holy Place in the Temple in Jerusalem doubted when the angel Gabriel told him the Messiah would now be born and that he and his wife, who were very old at that point and then unable to have children, would have a son that would be the promised herald to announce the Messiah was now alive in Israel.

God promised Zechariah for his unbelief, and he became dumb. He was a high-ranking priest, and he should have known better to doubt the angel of God who had appeared to him in the Holy Place. But now the son he and his wife Elizabeth had long prayed for, John the Baptist was born. When Zechariah confirmed that his name was John as the angel had told him, he could now miraculously speak.

He prophesied, blessed God for fulfilling His promise to send the Messiah and before that to choose his son John the Baptist to be the forerunner of the Messiah stated in Malachi 3. He thanked God for being the parents of the messenger that would announce that Messiah was there. He outlined the great promises of God, and the great works God had done.

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He and his wife believed in God and tried to live according to the rules of God. They trusted God and even though God had not before that time answered their prayers for a son, their faith in God never got less. Now this great visit by the angels gave them more joy and pleasure that they could ever imagine. Their son would be the prophesied forerunner of the Messiah. That was a great privilege.

So keep your faith in God and stay with Him. He will bless you.

